I’m Silvia Lupone, the owner of Stingray Villa, a small four-room Cozumel Guest House. We opened our doors in 2019, and from the beginning, the location was everything. Stingray Villa sits right next to Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park, just off the coast of the island in the state of Quintana Roo.

Cozumel is known for its reefs, but this national park protects a very specific and special stretch. The park covers the reefs along the southern side of the island, starting just south of the International Pier, wrapping around Punta Sur, and extending a short way up the east coast. These waters include both shallow reefs and deeper coral systems that reach down to about 100 meters. They are part of the larger Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second-largest coral reef system in the world.

The park is also internationally protected. Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park is designated under the Ramsar Convention and is part of the UNESCO-recognized Isla Cozumel Biosphere Reserve, along with the island’s northern mangroves and wetlands. Being able to open Stingray Villa in 2019 right next to such an important and protected natural area is something I’m incredibly proud of, and it shapes the experience we offer our guests every day.